

# **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2023.**

**Present:** Cllrs. A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, A. O'Connor, S. O'Callaghan, S. Sheppard and S O'Connor.

**Officials:** Mr. P. Lynch, S/Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. M. McSweeney, S/Municipal District Officer  
Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer.  
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

Apologies were received from R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer.

## **1.0 Proposed Celtic Interconnector – update to be given remotely by Michelle Walsh Community Liaison Officer.**

Michelle Walsh and Shane Cooney of Eirgrid gave a brief update on progress to date on the Interconnector project for which a contract had been signed in November 2022 and full funding secured. S. Cooney confirmed that construction was due to commence in 2023 and the project would be completed by 2026. Cllr. A. O'Connor sought clarification on when the roadworks were due to be finished. S. Cooney stated that the most disruptive phase of construction which would include road closures would commence in 2023 and would continue into 2024. Several councillors emphasised the need to communicate adequately and in a timely manner with residents given the disruptive nature and duration of the works. Cllr. A. Barry queried if the conductor station required planning and queried the access to the station. S. Cooney replied that planning had been required and had been granted. M. Walsh outlined the steps taken to date with regard to the Community Fund and stated that the next phase would involve SECAD and Eirgrid making a determination on the proposals received from community groups to date and deciding on the most suitable ideas to be put forward.

The members thanked the representatives of Eirgrid for their presentation, who then withdrew.

## **2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of: Monthly Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were adopted.

### **3.0 Matters Arising.**

#### **3.1 Hartlands Point:**

G. O’Hora stated that the grass had been cut again before Christmas.

#### **3.2 Little Island Playground:**

G. O’Hora stated that the works were substantially completed and the final landscaping would be carried out in the next few weeks.

#### **3.3 ESB Pole, G.A.A. Pitch & Ballywilliam, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that he had again tried to contact the ESB to expedite the works, but to no avail, will continue to pursue.

#### **3.4 Main Street, Carrigtwohill:**

G. O’Hora stated that works had been carried out before Christmas. Cllr. A. Barry informed Mr. O’Hora that that area had flooded again over Christmas, as had the area near the West End. Engineer to follow up.

#### **3.5 Tay Road Sign, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that he had been in contact with Rennicks who should have repaired the sign by now. Several councillors informed him that the sign was not yet repaired. G. O’Hora to pursue.

#### **3.6 Ballinaltig Cemetery:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the works were ongoing.

#### **3.7 Brown Island Pier:**

G. O’Hora stated that he had examined the location and was proposing the installation of flexible bollards at the high water mark.

#### **3.8 Leonards Lodge, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that some works had been carried out to cut back the hedging. He also stated that the water running down the hill was a legacy issue and was coming from private property, however he would include it in the Road drainage programme for 2023.

#### **3.9 Top of East Hill:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that works had been carried out.

#### **3.10 Decorative Lights, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated a contractor had been appointed to carry out repairs.

**3.11 Pedestrian Crossing, Newtown:**

G.O’Hora stated that he had worked up a cost estimate for the provision of a full pedestrian crossing at this location - approximately €26,000.00.

**3.12 Ahern’s Place, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the new road ramp had been completed, however Cllr. Rasmussen pointed out that it had not yet been lined. G. O’Hora confirm lining works was weather dependent and subject to weather ramp would be lined shortly.

**3.13 Belvelly:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the issue with drains in the area had been sorted.

**3.14 Crescent, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora had prepared a preliminary cost for the resurfacing works, which could cost in the region of €38,000.00+Vat, a contribution of 10% would be required from the residents. G. O’Hora to email Cllr. C. Rasmussen with the details.

**3.15 Assumption Place, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed remedial works were listed to alleviate the flooding.

**3.16 St. Colmans’ Square, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that remedial works were listed.

**3.17 Hawthorn Terrace, Cobh:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked when the lines would be replaced at the corner. G. O’Hora replied that the weather was affecting the road lining programme.

**3.18 Fota Bus Stop:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked for an update on the proposed new bus stop at Fota. G. O’Hora replied that the design of the bus stop location had been referred back to the Roads Design Office.

**3.19 Fota Road:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked when the road sweeper would be deployed on the Fota Road, there was a large amount of leaves on the road. G O’Hora confirmed he would schedule sweeping of the R624 road for mid-February.

**3.20 Old Town Hall, Cobh:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen sough an update on his previous motion regarding the repairs required on the building. P. Lynch replied that no structural damage had occurred,

however the plastering needed to be repaired and he would discuss with the Port of Cork.

**3.21 Connolly Street, Cobh:**

Cllr. S. O'Connor sought an update on his motion regarding Connolly Street.

M. McSweeney replied that a response had been received from Gillian Vaughan, Senior Engineer, Coastal Management, regarding same and a meeting was to take place before the end of January where the issue would again be raised. P. Lynch to pursue.

**3.22 The Mews, Rushbrooke Links:**

Cllr. S. O'Connor again raised the issue of overgrown trees at Rushbrooke Links.

P. Lynch replied that this was private land and Cork County Council could not enter onto such lands to carry out any works.

**3.23 West View, Cobh:**

Cllr. S. O'Connor raised the issue of overhanging trees at West View, which were dangerous and queried who was responsible if they fell. P. Lynch replied that this land was also in private ownership and it was the landowners responsibility to make the trees safe and in the event of any falling, it was the landowner who would be responsible for any damages. Cllr. S. O'Connor to follow up with the owner.

**3.24 Assumption Place/Russell Heights, Cobh:**

Cllr. S. Sheppard requested that traffic calming measures and a review of the speed limit be put in place in the Russell Heights/Assumption Place area following a recent crash. Engineer to examine.

**3.25 Ballinaltig Cemetery, Watergrasshill:**

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that access to the cemetery was very difficult, could works be carried out to the area just inside the car park gates to ensure a smooth traffic flow. Engineer confirmed drainage works would be carried out shortly.

**4.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.**

M. McSweeney had circulated the reply received from P. Barrett, Director of Services, Roads in relation to the motion raised by Cllr. C. Rasmussen relating to the redeployment of outdoor staff from the Cobh M.D. area. Several councillors expressed their dissatisfaction with the contents of the letter, stating that while other Municipal Districts were getting additional staff, the Cobh M.D. was set to lose up to 4 staff members in 2023 and queried how this would affect the delivery of services. G. O'Hora replied that staffing was an operational matter for the Human Resource Department. He would be examining and improving existing work practices and further upskilling staff to ensure the delivery of the various roads programmes.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that another letter would be sent to P. Barrett requesting a meeting.

## **5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.**

### **Taking In Charge Of Marine Gate, Cobh**

That, being satisfied that a public right of way exists over it and the road is of general public utility, Cork County Council hereby declares pursuant to Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act, 1993 the following road to be a public road:-

<b>ESTATE NAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>LINEAR METRES</b>
<b>Marine Gates</b>	<b>Cobh</b>	<b>340</b>

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to take the road at Marine Gate, Cobh in charge.

## **6.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report.**

M. McSweeney presented the members with a report on the amount of monies claimed to date under the General Municipal Allocation, the Town Development Fund and the Paint Scheme for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022. Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed surprise at the amount of monies left unclaimed under the various schemes from 2020 and sought further details on the amounts and claimants prior to the allocation of grants for 2023. Cllr. S. O'Callaghan enquired whether there was a limit to the number of times a group may apply. She was informed that there was a limit of 3 years in a row for funding.

Cllr. S. Sheppard enquired whether an overall figure had been obtained in relation to the Pay Parking Dividend. P. Lynch replied that that figure had not yet been released by the Finance Department. P. Lynch replied that he was still awaiting that figure.

P. Lynch reminded the members that an allocation had previously been made from the TDF for an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at Newtown, did the members now want to keep an additional amount to fund the upgrade to a controlled crossing? The members agreed to do so.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the grant situation needed to be tightened up and welcomed the additional detail to be provided.

## **Extension Of Time – Capital Grant**

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, Seconded by Cllr. Sheppard, it was agreed to extend grant issued to Leaside AFC under the Capital Grant 2021 to the end of 2023.

### **7.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**

‘That this Municipal would look at making a Safe School Zone Area near Cobh Community College and the Gaelscoil as this is very dangerous for all users’.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the new safe school zone was very successful at Rushbrooke and sought a similar scheme for the Carrignafoy road, which was very busy. In the short term he asked whether it could be made safer by the installation of yellow lines. G. O’Hora replied stating that he had examined the road and had prepared preliminary traffic calming drawings that he would be happy to show the members after the meeting.

**To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**

‘That this Municipal would look at replacing or fixing many of the parking and other council street signs and damaged poles in the Cobh area, many of which are well worn and need urgent replacing’.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that a number of signs were in need of refurbishment and sought a full survey prior to the busy summer period. G. O’Hora responded that there was an ongoing programme in relation to signage repair, however he did acknowledge that Cobh town had a lot of signage. If the members had any specific locations to let him know.

### **8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.**

**Cllr. S. O’Connor:**

#### **8.1 Carrignafoy:**

A trench was dug across the road sometime ago to facilitate works, which has not been reinstated correctly and now is deteriorating rapidly. G. O’Hora has previously examined this area, and is seeking a source of funding for a full re-instatement.

#### **8.2 Pitch & Putt Club, Carrignafoy:**

There have been several bad crashes at this junction. A pedestrian crossing is required. G. O’Hora replied stating that he had examined the road and had prepared preliminary traffic calming drawings that he would be happy to show the members after the meeting

**Cllr. S. O’Callaghan:**

**8.3 Ballytrasna Road:**

The road at Ballytrasna was flooded, the drain needs to be cleared especially near the Centra garage. G. O’Hora replied that there were a lot of trees in the area and often the drains got blocked within hours of being cleared. Engineer to examine again.

**Cllr. S. Sheppard:**

**8.4 Old Church, Cobh:**

There is a lot of flooding just inside the main gates. Engineer confirmed drains were listed for cleaning.

**8.5 Top of Hill, Cobh:**

Large pothole at top of the Old Street, it has been filled in, but keeps opening. Engineer confirmed pothole was listed for repair.

**8.6 Public Toilets, Cobh:**

What is going to happen going forward with the public toilets. Vandalised 9 times in 2022, the costs of which were quite substantial. Could a total figure for these repairs be provided and perhaps issue a statement regarding same. Cllr. A. Barry agreed, stating that in the worst case the toilets may need to be closed during the summer. Cllr. C. Rasmussen queried what other councils do. G. O’Hora stated that it depends on the location, that some places operate only between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Cllr. Rasmussen also wanted to get the figure for any costs of the Fire Brigade in responding to vandalism call-outs.

**Cllr. C. Rasmussen:**

**8.7 Potholes, Cobh:**

- Several potholes near the Pirates Rugby Club and on Norwood Hill, near Norwood Park.
  - The junction of Harbour Hill and East Beach is still a problem.
  - The road outside of Centra.
  - The potholes at Whitepoint were filled with dry materials, which will be washed away in the current weather.
  - The roundabout at Carrignafey also has a number of potholes.
  - East Hill near Cottrells Row
  - Hermitage Drive – ongoing, the ground has subsided.
- Engineer confirmed locations were listed for repair.

**8.8 Ballyleary:**

The public lights are still not operating. Engineer to examine.

**8.9 Burma Steps:**

The drain needs to be put in place at the end of the steps. G. O’Hora confirmed that the drain has been ordered. A similar drain needs repair at the entrance to Carrig House, Landlord to be requested to get same reinstate.

**Raw Sewage – Little Island**

The matter of raw sewage across from the graveyard in Little Island had been referred to a number of Councillors – it was agreed that the public health issue be referred to Irish Water.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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CATHOIRLEACH

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MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER